

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An article for absorbing an aqueous fluid, comprising:
cellulose fibers;
superabsorbent material; and
an oil applied to the cellulose fibers or the superabsorbent material.
2. The article of Claim 1, wherein the oil has a melting point below about 25°C.
3. The article of Claim 1, wherein the oil comprises a triglyceride.
4. The article of Claim 1, wherein the oil is a fatty acid.
5. The article of Claim 1, wherein the oil is olive oil, soybean oil, safflower oil, cottonseed oil, linseed oil, tung oil, castor oil, coconut oil, canola oil, corn oil, or jojoba oil.
6. The article of Claim 1, wherein the oil is a saturated or unsaturated alkane, alkene, alkyne, cycloalkane, cycloalkene, cycloalkyne or combinations thereof.
7. The article of Claim 1, wherein the oil is petroleum derived.
8. The article of Claim 7, wherein the oil is selected from the group consisting of mineral oil, hexadecane, squalane, and squalene.
9. The article of Claim 1, wherein the oil is present on the fibers in an amount ranging from about 0.5 to 20 wt. % based on the weight of oven-dried fibers.
10. The article of Claim 1, wherein the oil is present on the superabsorbent material in an amount ranging from about 0.01 to less than 10 wt. % based on the weight of the superabsorbent material.
11. Treated fibers comprising:
cellulose fibers; and

an oil applied to the fibers, the oil having a melting point below the temperature at which the oil is applied to the fibers.

12. The treated fibers of Claim 11, wherein the cellulose fibers are wood pulp fibers.

13. The treated fibers of Claim 11, wherein the oil is petroleum derived.

14. The treated fibers of Claim 11, wherein the oil comprises a triglyceride.

15. Treated superabsorbent material comprising:

superabsorbent material; and

an oil applied to the superabsorbent material, the oil having a melting point below the temperature at which the oil is applied to the superabsorbent material.

16. The treated superabsorbent material of Claim 15, wherein the oil is petroleum derived.

17. The treated superabsorbent material of Claim 15, wherein the oil comprises a triglyceride.

18. A method for retaining superabsorbent material within a web of cellulose fibers comprising:

providing cellulose fibers having an oil applied thereto, the oil having a melting point below the temperature at which the oil is applied to the fibers; and

contacting a superabsorbent material with the cellulose fibers treated with an oil.

19. A method for retaining superabsorbent material within a web of cellulose fibers comprising:

providing superabsorbent material having an oil applied thereto, the oil having a melting point below the temperature at which the oil is applied to the superabsorbent material; and

contacting cellulose fibers with the superabsorbent material treated with an oil.